

The electronic edition of Amateur Radio Newsline is transcribed from source material by Dale Cary. Newsline is reprinted here courtesy of Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, Editor of Newsline. Editorial comment should be E-mailed to [newsline@mcimail.com](mailto:newsline@mcimail.com) or [B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com](mailto:B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com). Voice or FAX to +1 805-296-7180.

Personal Note: Bill is very happy with the additional feedback he's been getting since we began posting this transcribed version on the nets. He would personally like to thank all of you for your input.

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, or (718) 353-2801. For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line at (805) 296-2407. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN  
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[845]

\* \* \* \* C L O S E D   C I R C U I T   A D V I S O R A Y   \* \* \* \*  
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\*     The following is a closed circuit advisory and is NOT for \*  
\* transmission over ham radio. According to Dr. Norm Chalfin, \*  
\* K6PGX, Newsline is once again very broke. Dr. Chalfin is \*  
\* the administrator of the Newsline Support Fund. He says \*  
\* that there is still less than three hundred dollars \*  
\* available in the account and that at least seven hundred \*  
\* dollars is needed to make the monthly expenses. \*  
\*     As you probably know, the vast majority of the donations \*  
\* goes directly toward paying our monthly phone bills and \*  
\* electronic mail services. This is how we get the news, and \*  
\* it is how we deliver it to you. If we loose the telephone, \*  
\* the E-Mail or both, we will have no way to get the news and \*  
\* no way to disseminate it to you. \*  
\*     Simply said, we need the assistance of every listener who \*  
\* appreciates Newsline to help to keep it on the air. The \*  
\* Newsline Support Fund is separate from the service itself \*  
\* and exists for the purpose of channeling donations directly \*  
\* to the those providing services to the Newsline \*  
\* organization. \*  
\*     The address for the Newsline Support Fund is Post Office \*  
\* Box number 463, Pasadena, California 91102. As always, we \*  
\* thank you for your support. \*  
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#### NEW FINE SCHEDULE

The FCC has released its updated schedule of fines that it can charge you for violating its rules. When you hear the new numbers you are defiantly going to think twice before willfully breaking any Part 97 regulation.

We will start from the bottom of the monetary forfeiture list and work our way up to the big money. On the low end of its fine schedule, the FCC has added a new category called assorted minor violations. Breaking any of these carry a \$625 price tag. Failure to identify your station is now a \$1,250 offense and using unauthorized equipment can cost you five thousand green-backs.

But that's nothing in comparison to the next three. Running excessive power, failing to respond to an FCC communication or operating on an unauthorized frequency now carries a ten thousand dollar price tag. Transmitting material or words that are deemed to be legally indecent will cost \$12,500, being the source of malicious interference to another ham is now a \$17,500 monetary forfeiture and failing to permit the FCC to inspect your station now has a hefty \$18,500 price tag.

And if you really want to help reduce the national debt, just get caught sending out a false SOS. Misusing a distress or safety frequency or issuing a false distress communication is now the kind of an activity that brings with it a twenty thousand dollar fine for each transmission. That's right. Twenty thousand dollars per violation.

And we should also remind you that these dollar amounts are what the FCC calls base fines. The recommended amount for a first offense. And while the commission does reserve the right to make downward adjustments if a violator cooperates and shows good faith, it can also raise the amount by up to 90 percent. This, if it can prove that the violation was intentional or that it caused substantial harm. Or, in simpler terms, you could be dinged as much as 33,250 dollars for something as simple as jamming an emergency call on a local repeater.

This is only part of a very long list of violations for which the commission can issue monetary forfeitures. Most are aimed at commercial users of the radio spectrum, but the FCC notes that any can apply to personal radio users as well.

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#### HAM NEWS PHOTOG QUESTIONED IN INTERFERENCE TO BIG MAC

Customers who suffered insults at the take-out window of a Dallas, Texas Mc Donald's restaurant have now been told that a local television news photographer has been questioned in the case. The September 30th issue of the Dallas Observer newspaper reported that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents detained thirty-four year old Terry Van Sickle after noticing him driving in the same area as the McDonalds restaurant in what the agency describes as an antenna-laden vehicle.

Van Sickle holds the Amateur Radio call sign WB5WXI. He is described as a self-employed television news photographer under

exclusive contract to Dallas television station WFAA. He told the Observer that he was detained by FBI agents after driving his car into the area of the restaurant that was having its radio relayed take out order window harassed.

Although no charges have been filed against him, Van Sickle says that he is under what amounts to suspension by WFAA television until the matter is resolved. And, on the advice of his lawyer he would not comment further on the investigation. He did however tell the Observer that it is a common practice for electronic enthusiasts to talk to fast food restaurants in this way. He says that radio buffs regularly post the frequencies of fast-food restaurant radio systems on computer bulletin boards and that the frequencies used by the Mc Donald's was readily accessible to almost anyone.

WB5WXI says that he was not arrested but only questioned and released by the FBI investigators. He says that the only reason that he became a suspect is because he drives a vehicle that carries a lot of radio gear.

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#### NEW PHONE SCAM

The Federal Communications Commission is warning of a new telephone scam in which consumers are tricked into accepting long-distance charges for calls placed by con artists. The con works when a unwitting consumer tells an operator "yes" when asked to accept charges for a call being made from another phone to another number elsewhere in the country or the world.

The commission says the caller claims to be an FCC inspector or representative of a long-distance company investigating calls or trouble on the line. The caller tells the consumer that a supervisor will soon be calling, and that the consumer should just say "yes" when asked to accept the charges.

The FCC says it doesn't do business that way, and neither do phone companies.

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#### MODULATION MONITORS

The FCC has launched an inquiry to explore rules and policies that relate to the definition of measurement of FM broadcast station aural modulation limits. The Maximum aural modulation limits are specified in the broadcast rules. For FM stations the total modulation must not exceed 100% on peaks of frequent reoccurrence to 75 KHz deviation.

Until 1983, the FCC required FM broadcasters to use type accepted modulation monitors to determine if they were operating within the rules. But that year saw a regulatory change that

permitted stations to use other devices to monitor with. Some of these says the commission respond differently than those built under the pre 1983 FCC specification. This the FCC says has lead to some cases of over modulation being noted on the air.

Recognizing that the cost of the equipment needed to determine compliance with emission standards may be more expensive than those used to make traditional measurements, the commission says that it wants to get information on what equipment is needed by a station to comply. It also wants to know if it should continue to permit stations to use the older conventional modulation monitors as an alternative if new emission limits are adopted for the service.

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#### STS-58 SAREX MISSION LIFTS OFF

After two frustrating delays, the STS-58 SAREX space shuttle mission began on Monday, October 18th with a spectacular launch amid sunny skies at the Kennedy Space Center. Liftoff of the Space Shuttle Columbia was ten seconds late due to an intruding aircraft in the shuttle's projected flight path. As a result, liftoff occurred at 14:53 UTC.

The primary objective of this fourteen day, high inclination flight is to perform human and animal life science experiments as part of the Spacelab Life Sciences Two payload. The crew is taking part in a series of experiments to gain more knowledge on how the human body adapts to the weightless environment of space. In addition to the astronaut crew thirty-nine rats flying on Columbia as part of the weightless environment experiment.

Also on board is SAREX -- the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. Pilot Richard Searfoss, KC5CKM, joins Mission Specialist William McArthur Jr., KC5ACR and Payload Specialist Martin Fettman, KC5AXA as the crews most recent licensee. FM voice and packet are being operated throughout the flight. Student groups in Arkansas, Texas, Ohio, Missouri, Arizona, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Colorado, North Carolina, Indiana and France have been selected for scheduled contacts with the crew.

At airtime, its not known if the high flying hams will have time for any non-scheduled open contacts on FM voice but there will be plenty of automated packet radio operation during the flight with the regular SAREX frequencies being used. There is also a SAREX information desk set up at The Johnson Space Center in Houston. Those manning it will keep the amateur radio community posted on developments as STS-58 writes another chapter in mans conquest of the unknown and sets new records for ham radio operations from space.

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#### ANNOUNCING HAM SAT

LW2DTZ is asking all hams to listen for a special message on AMSAT OSCAR 21 ham radio satellite. This, from October 15th through the 31st. Gustavo is not saying what the message contains, but he has said that it will be broadcast in several languages over the 2 meter downlink frequency of 145.985 MHz. That's 145.895 plus or minus the normal satellite Doppler shift.

LW2DTZ says that this operating event is jointly sponsored by AMSAT-DL and Technischer Jugendfreizeit-Und Bildungsverein for the purpose of interesting young people in amateur radio and satellite techniques. All those who send a letter or postcard with a reception report and location will receive a special QSL.

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#### MIR GEAR

Plans are afoot to change the amateur radio equipment on board the Russian Mir Space Station. In the future not only 2 Meters but also 70 cm and even 23cm operation can be expected. ATV equipment for use aboard the space station is presently being developed.

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#### PETER I ISLAND UPDATE

In DX, word that the long awaited Peter I Island expedition is still a 'GO' for early next year. This, according to DXpedition planner Tony De Prato, WA4JQS who says that everything is still on schedule for the operation.

Tony says that he has equipment to operate five high frequency stations including a pair of tri-band beams and several monoband beams including one for 40 meters. He has also secured a Gap and a Battle Creek Special, four Alpha amps and a number of four kilowatt generators for power. He says that there will be one rig dedicated to RTTY, and they plan to be on RTTY on all bands. They also have satellite and EME gear in the works. The operation is planned for 16 days. QSL's will go via AA6BB and KA6V. Tony adds that you should stay tuned for more details as they become available.

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#### HALLOWEEN

And on what we believe should be called a scarier note, word that the Transylvania County ARC of Brevard North Carolina will operate as W4ZCB to celebrate Halloween. And, as you might

expect, the club has chosen an apropos location for the expedition. It will operate from the Devil's Courthouse in Transylvania County.

Operation hours will be from 20:00 hours UTC on October the 31st to 02:00 hours UTC on November 1st. Frequencies are 7.234, 14.295, 21.365, 28.335 SSB, and locally on 146.52 FM simplex.

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#### HAM NAMED WINNER OF NOBEL PRIZE

The winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physics, Princeton University Professor Joseph H. Taylor, K1JT, says that he attributes his success in the sciences to his early involvement in Amateur Radio.

According to news reports Taylor, who shared this years award with Princeton colleague Russell A. Hulse says that he developed his scientific skills through ham radio while he was a student at the Morristown Friends Academy in New Jersey. He went on to earn a Bachelors Degree from Harvard in 1963 and later received a Doctorate in Astronomy from the same university.

The Nobel Committee awarded this years Physics prize to Professors Taylor and Hulse for their work in the field of study of the gigantic gravitational forces exerted by pulsars. Hulse is a former student of Dr. Taylor and their work has been lauded by the scientific community because it appears to confirm many of the predictions made by the late Professor Albert Einstein in his "General Theory of Relativity."

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For this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newslines. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463 in Pasadena, CA 91102.

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